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OLC 73-0647
31 May 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussions with Senate Armed Services Committee
Members re Handling of Watergate Material

1. In a discussion with Senators Stuart Symington and Henry Jackson and General Counsel Jim Woolsey, of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Symington said that in view of the press leaks from the various committees and the grand jury involved in the Watergate matter, he was tempted to release immediately virtually all of the transcripts and supporting documentation developed by the Senate Armed Services Committee. Senator Jackson cautioned that it might be more desirable to wait until the testimony of the other parties involved, particularly members of the White House staff, had been completed and then release the Agency's side of the case in rebuttal if necessary. Mr. Woolsey and I concurred and Senator Symington apparently agreed.
2. Regarding the matter of release of records, I reminded the Senators and Woolsey of the existence of a couple of very sensitive items in the material we had supplied them, particularly regarding Ehrlichman's phone call to General Cushman and Cushman's ensuing meeting with Howard Hunt. I said I hoped that material of this sort at least could be protected.
3. Following the above meeting, I had lunch with Mr. Woolsey who said the Committee would probably want to see the full text of the minutes of the Director's "Executive morning meeting" at which General Cushman had reported on his phone call from Ehrlichman requesting assistance for Howard Hunt. He said that they would not want to put all this material in the record, but merely want to exercise their independent judgment as to whether General Cushman's report on the Ehrlichman phone call was the only relevant item. I said we would be very reluctant to release the full minutes of the morning meeting, but said I would be glad to raise with the Director the possibility that Woolsey himself be given a chance to read all the minutes so he could then certify to

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the Committee that none of the other items were relevant to the question at issue. Mr. Woolsey said this might be acceptable to the Chairman.

4. Mr. Woolsey said he was bogged down with handling the Watergate hearings but fortunately a new member of the Committee staff was now on board who would take over the burdensome job of handling Defense manpower matters.

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5. Mr. Woolsey explained that the Senate Appropriations Committee transcripts of the Watergate hearings were being made available to the Senate Armed Services Committee staff for information and comment, and he was having difficulty in taking full advantage of this opportunity. I said we would be glad to try to lend him a hand, and suggested that [redacted] (of OLC), who was keeping tabs on all of the transcripts and documentation in which we were involved, might be able to work with him in reviewing the Appropriations Committee transcripts and help him to identify significant conflicts between testimony before the Appropriations and before the Armed Services Committees. Mr. Woolsey said he would welcome this but would check it out with the Chairman.

6. Later in the day I had another chance encounter with Senator Symington, who told me "in strict confidence," that he had just been told by a member of the Appropriations Committee that Haldeman had testified this afternoon that his 23 June 1972 meeting with Ehrlichman, Helms and Walters, at which he raised White House concern over the possibility that the FBI investigation of the Watergate matter might involve CIA, had been at the direction of the President.

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[redacted]

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